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SD 5/31/07

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

a.) providing an aluminum alloy plate from an aluminum alloy with a predetermined thickness, said plate having been stretched after quenching and having been brought to a temper selected from the group consisting of T4, T73, T74 and T76, wherein said aluminum alloy plate is produced from ~~an aluminum alloy selected from the group consisting of AA5xxx, AA6xxx and a AA7xxx-series alloys~~ aluminium alloy having a composition consisting of, in weight percent:

Zn 5.0 – 8.5

Cu 1.0 – 2.6

Mg 1.0 – 2.9

Fe < 0.3

Si < 0.3

optionally one or more elements selected from:

Cr 0.03 – 0.25

Zr 0.03 – 0.25

Mn 0.03 – 0.4

V 0.03 – 0.2

Hf 0.03 – 0.5

Ti 0.01 – 0.15,

the total of the optional elements not exceeding 0.6, incidental impurities each < 0.05,
total < 0.20;

the balance aluminium,

b.) shaping said alloy plate to obtain a predetermined shaped structure having a pre-machining thickness in the range of 10 to 220 mm, wherein said shaping comprises cold forming,

c.) heat-treating said shaped structure, wherein said heat-treating comprises